

HINDI IMPOSITION PAPERS

Volume 12

Power of Hindi Politicians
plus
India is for Hindi People Only

Thanjai Nalankilli

HINDI IMPOSITION PAPERS

Volume 12 Power of Hindi Politicians plus India is for Hindi People Only

edited by
Thanjai Nalankilli

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AUTHORS

Lalitha Krishnan Nair (1)

Thanjai Nalankilli (11)

Numbers in parentheses indicate number of articles by the author in this volume.

Hindi Imposition Papers

All You Wanted to Know about Hindi imposition and More

This fifteen-volumes book contains over 100 articles on the subject of Hindi imposition in India. Researchers, scholars, historians and students who want to get an in-depth understanding of India's language policy may go through these articles one by one. Others may casually browse through these volumes, stopping to read those articles that interest them. You may find lots of interesting and useful information in these articles.

Even if you are reading these articles a hundred years from now, these articles will tell you the history of the development and evolution of India's Hindi imposition policies and opposition to it, starting from 1938 to 2019. This is part of Indian history. India's language problem is an ongoing problem. We do not know where all this will lead to and how this will end.

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Preface

Thanjai Nalankilli

This volume consists of two parts.

Part I: Power of Hindi Politicians

Hindi politicians wield extraordinary political power in India and use that power to benefit their language, people and states at the expense of non-Hindi languages, peoples and states. Articles in Part I explore one aspect of this power: Hindi imposition and language discrimination.

Part II: India is for Hindi Speakers Only

There is an arrogant attitude among some senior Hindi politicians wielding much power in the Indian government that Indian government is for the benefit of Hindi speakers only. "It is your fault if you cannot benefit from Indian government's social programs funded by Hindi and non-Hindi taxpayers; you better learn Hindi or you lose", seems to be the attitude. Of course Hindi people need not do anything, Hindi is their mother tongue, they learned the language from their mothers' lap, but it is a burden on non-Hindi peoples. Several examples are given in Part II articles.

(First Published: July 2019)

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1.
Who Rules India?
Government of the Hindis, by the Hindis, for the Hindis

Part I
POWER OF HINDI POLITICIANS

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This 4-parts article is included in Volume 1 also because of its relevance there.]

[This is a 4-parts article providing a wealth of information on how Hindi politicians rule all of India, and use that power to relegate and slowly vanquish all other cultures and languages, as well as economically plunder the industrious non-Hindi states. Each of the four parts is self-contained and may be read as a separate article but the best way is to read them in sequence, Chapters 1 to 4.]

OUTLINE (Part I)

A Few Preliminary Notes

1. Introduction
2. Hindi Domination of the Indian Government
3. A Pseudo-Democracy?

Do the Indian democracy, constitution of the Republic of India and the political system allow for equal power sharing by the minority nationalities or is real political power concentrated in a certain region of the Indian Union? Are Hindi people the real rulers of India and all others their vassals? Political power of Hindi politicians not only lead to Hindi imposition, it also, equally important, blatant economic discrimination of many non-Hindi states resulting in large scale transfer of wealth from non-Hindi states to Hindi states.

A Few Preliminary Notes

Hindi imposition is the most visible symbol of Hindi rule over non-Hindi peoples of India. Non-Hindi states are also discriminated economically; thousands and thousands of crores of Rupees are moved from non-Hindi states into Hindi states by the Indian government. A more recent phenomenon is the uncontrolled inflow of migrant workers from Hindi-belt states into non-Hindi states. This is playing havoc with the cultural, social and economic fabric of non-Hindi states. (1 crore = 10 million)

1. Introduction

India is a country created by British colonial rulers comprising of many "nationalities". In a country comprising of many nations, one or more nations should not discriminate

against the others or overlord the others. Today's India is the remnant of "British India", the geographical area conquered and ruled by the British in South Asia as their prized colony. Today's India comprises of many nations/peoples, namely, Assam, Bodoland, Kerala, Khalistan (Punjab), Maharashtra, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, etc. etc. Does each of these nations/peoples participate equally in the Indian government, or does one or more of the nations/peoples dominate the others and run Government of India for their own benefit? During the British colonial rule it was easy to say British India was run by the British, serving their self interest. Has the independence of India from British rule merely changed the rule from British hands to someone else? In essence, have Hindi people become the de facto rulers of post-British India?

The largest language group in the Indian parliament is Hindi politicians. Although Hindi members did not have a majority in the constitution assembly, non-Hindi members, especially those from South, after heated arguments against making Hindi the official language of India, gave in to Congress Party leadership and accepted Hindi. Once Hindi was enthroned thus, it became impossible to amend the Indian constitution relating to the official language policy because an amendment requires two-thirds majority in the parliament and Hindi politicians can easily block any amendment. Irrespective of party affiliations, I have never seen a Hindi MP (Member of Parliament) vote against Hindi imposition or speak against the injustice of keeping the language one region (namely, Hindi) as the official language over the entire India.

Has any Hindi politician ever supported views like Tamil Nadu's L. Krishnaswamy Bharathi: "To allow Hindi to sit on the throne in Delhi as sole monarch is patently discriminatory and will have the effect of reducing the non-Hindi people to second-rate citizens"?

With the constitution on their side, Hindi parliamentarians have enacted laws, rules, regulations and government orders that are patently discriminatory to non-Hindi peoples. Most employment recruitments for jobs with Indian government and its undertakings are held in Hindi and English thus giving Hindi students a definite advantage. Once in the job, employees are forced to study and do some percentage of work in Hindi [Volumes 4 and 5 provide plenty of examples].

2. Hindi Domination of the Indian Government

Though there are different political parties among Hindi people that fight with each other for the "right to govern India", once it comes to protecting Hindi hegemony over the non-Hindi peoples, they stand together. Have you ever seen any major Hindi politician opposing Hindi imposition? Have you ever heard a Hindi politician criticize Indian government for discriminating many non-Hindi states economically?

Even with solidarity among Hindi politicians on key issues protecting Hindi hegemony, they do not have a majority in the Indian parliament. Then, how are they, with only about 40% of Indian population, able to perpetuate and strengthen Hindi domination of the Indian Government? Constitutional amendment requires two-thirds majority in

parliament. So constitution cannot be amended without the support of Hindi members of parliament. As we said in the last paragraph, "Have you ever seen any major Hindi politician opposing Hindi imposition? Have you ever heard a Hindi politician criticize Indian government for discriminating many non-Hindi states economically?"

Even pro-Hindi laws favouring Hindi states can be passed with support from a small number of non-Hindi members of parliament in the name of party unity or offering ministerial positions or other favours. Getting 10% support from non-Hindi politicians is not difficult as we have seen again and again. This is the political reality. This is the political dynamics.

The 40% Hindi politicians stand together across party line and take a united stand. They easily acquire support from 10% or more politicians from non-Hindi states in the name of party loyalty or personal favours.

3. A Pseudo-Democracy?

This article is about the power of Hindi in Indian politics. It undermines democracy itself. Democracy is not the rule of the majority (or the largest group). Democracy in its true sense is the rule of the majority (or the largest group) with minority rights protected*.

That is not what is happening in India; Hindi politicians have set up constitutional provisions, rules, laws and regulations that deny the language rights of non-Hindi peoples as well as economically discriminate most non-Hindi states.

[* I believe that India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru said something to this effect. Whether he said this or not, this is what democracy should be.]

Part II of the article is the next Chapter (Chapter 2)

(First Published: July 2019)

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2. **Who Rules India?** **Government of the Hindis, by the Hindis, for the Hindis**

Part II DISPLAY OF HINDI POLITICAL POWER

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This 4-parts article is included in Volume 1 also because of its relevance there.]

[This is a 4-parts article providing a wealth of information on how Hindi politicians rule all of India, and use that power to relegate and slowly vanquish all other cultures and languages, as well as economically plunder the industrious non-Hindi states. Each of the four parts is self-contained and may be read as a separate article but the best way is to read them in sequence, Chapters 1 to 4.]

OUTLINE (Part II)

4. Why Kamaraj Could Not Become Prime Minister
5. Karnataka's Deve Gowda Reads his Speeches in Hindi
6. Sonia Gandhi Interrupted for Speaking in English
7. Why Pranab Mukerjee Cannot Become Prime Minister of India?
8. Chandrababu Naidu Learns Hindi
9. President Abdul Kalam Asked to Learn Hindi

4. Why Kamaraj Could Not Become Prime Minister

Chief Minister Kamaraj of Tamil Nadu was one of the most powerful regional leaders ("regional bosses") in the Congress Party from the 1950s through mid-1960s. This was the time when Congress Party was the unchallenged victor in Indian political arena. It was able to form government on its own without help from any other party. It also formed all state governments except for Kerala until 1967. Kamaraj was often called the kingmaker because he played a pivotal role in the choice of Indira Gandhi and later Morarji Desai as Prime Ministers of India.

Once, in frustration Kamaraj told Tamil Nadu officials, **"if you get a letter from the Indian Government in Hindi, tear them and throw them away"**. In spite of all his political clout within the Congress Party, he could do nothing about Hindi imposition or the siphoning off of vast amounts of money from Tamil Nadu into the Hindi belt. A pragmatic politician that he was, he knew his place in the Indian hierarchy. He could be a king maker but could not become the king himself. Once he told reporters, "I cannot become India's Prime Minister because I know neither Hindi nor English". Even this changed in a few decades that only someone who knows Hindi could become Prime Minister of India; knowledge of English is not enough (see Part II: Sections 7).

5. Karnataka's Deve Gowda Reads his Speeches in Hindi

No single party gained a majority in the 1996 parliamentary elections. A number of diverse political parties joined together and formed a coalition government under the name of United Front government, with the Congress Party supporting it from outside the coalition. The coalition was loaded with southern members of parliament and Hindus had only a small number of members in it. Also, all dominant parties in the coalition were regional parties from non-Hindi regions. This situation forced the election of a southerner, Karnataka's H. D. Deve Gowda as Prime Minister.

Deve Gowda knew that he should not upset Hindi politicians. When the time came for him to address the people in radio and television on Independence Day, he asked his aides to write a speech in Hindi. Then the Hindi words were written down in his native Kannada language and he read the speech. This speaks volumes of the power of Hindi in Indian politics.

Deve Gowda was the first (and as of now (2019) the only) Prime Minister not to know Hindi, in all of the 70 years of post-British India. Some years later another South Indian politician, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, also became Prime Minister, but he knew Hindi well, spoke in Hindi in many public meetings and allotted large sums of money for Hindi development and propagation.

6. Sonia Gandhi Interrupted for Speaking in English

Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's widow Mrs. Sonia Gandhi had ambitions to become the Prime Minister of India. She was born and brought up in Italy, she moved to India after her marriage and became an Indian citizen. Her command of English is excellent. She did not seem to have made much effort to learn Hindi until after her entry into politics a few years after her husband's death. Her command of Hindi is limited and she could not make a speech in Hindi. When she was the opposition leader, she gave a 20 minute speech in English in parliament. Ruling party members shouted, "Hindi mein bolo," (Speak in Hindi), Sonia replied, "Agli baar koshish karoongi," (I will try next time) [The Telegraph-online edition; April 25, 2000]. She knew the power of Hindi in Indian politics and meekly agreed to try Hindi the next time.

7. Why Pranab Mukerjee Cannot Become Prime Minister of India?

In the 1960's knowledge of English or Hindi was considered a requirement for Prime Minister position (see Kamaraj's statement in Part II: Section 4). From around 2009, **knowledge of Hindi seems to have become a necessary requirement for Prime Minister position.**

Mr. Pranab Mukerji is from the non-Hindi eastern state of West Bengal. His knowledge of Hindi was limited. He was a minister in Prime Minister Manmohan Singh government. He did not aspire to become prime minister of India because, he said, "If you don't know

Hindi, you cannot be a prime minister" (Indo-American News Service (IANS); May 15, 2009). That is wrong. That is discriminatory. That is undemocratic. Mr. Mukerji did become President of India, a ceremonial position with no real power. The real power is with the prime minister.

8. Chandrababu Naidu Learns Hindi

This message of Pranab Mukherji has rung into the ears of ambitious non-Hindi politicians. Telugu speaking Andhra Pradesh's Chandrababu Naidu, with aspirations for the Prime Minister position started learning Hindi. India eNews website wrote on April 4, 2008, "Now that N. Chandrababu Naidu is looking for a larger role in national politics, the former Andhra Pradesh chief minister is dead serious about learning Hindi."

Chandrababu Naidu had learned his administrative skills as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Now, to move on to Prime Minister of India, he may want to learn foreign policy, defense and other issues confronting India. Instead, he was learning Hindi because of the political power of Hindi in India. What a waste of time.

Actually the arrogance and chauvinism of some powerful Hindi politicians is wasting the time and energy of not only prime minister candidates but also so many millions of students and workers. Hindi is a compulsory subject in most states. Hindi is a compulsory subject in all schools under Indian government jurisdiction. Hindi has nothing to offer to non-Hindi students but for the fact that Indian government forces its non-Hindi employees to learn Hindi. There is no benefit for non-Indian-government employees. Time learning Hindi in schools could be used to teach computer languages or mathematics or science. Far more useful subjects that would help India prosper. Hindi imposition is keeping us down.

9. President Abdul Kalam Asked to Learn Hindi

Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam was selected as presidential candidate by the ruling party in 2002. He started making courtesy calls to political leaders. He called upon Mulayam Singh Yadav, President of Samajwadi Party and former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (Hindi state) on June 17, 2002. Soon after this meeting Mr. Yadav told reporters that Presidential candidate Dr. Abdul Kalam had told him that he would learn Hindi within 3 to 6 months (Thinathanthi-Tamil Newspaper, June 18, 2002). Knowing Mulayam Singh Yadav's chauvinism (see Part III: Section 13), we wonder what happened at the meeting between Dr. Kalam and Mr. Yadav. Was Dr. Kalam pressured into studying Hindi?

Dr. Abdul Kalam did not come from a political background. He was one of the few presidents who was not a politician. He was a scientist. He was primarily responsible for India's nuclear missile development program and did an excellent job at that. Is the new president's time better spent on learning Hindi? Instead he should be reading up on the Indian constitution, presidential powers and responsibilities. But this is India. Anything to assuage the egos of Hindi politicians who, unfortunately, wield immense power over India.

Part III of the article is the next Chapter (Chapter 3)

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3.

Who Rules India?

Government of the Hindis, by the Hindis, for the Hindis

Part III

HINDI VERSUS NON-HINDI POLITICIANS: AN IMBALANCE IN POWER

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This 4-parts article is included in Volume 1 also because of its relevance there.]

[This is a 4-parts article providing a wealth of information on how Hindi politicians rule all of India, and use that power to relegate and slowly vanquish all other cultures and languages, as well as economically plunder the industrious non-Hindi states. Each of the four parts is self-contained and may be read as a separate article but the best way is to read them in sequence, Chapters 1 to 4.]

OUTLINE (Part III)

- 10. K. M. Paniker's Prophetic Statement from Kerala
- 11. Role of Non-Hindi Ministers in Indian Government
- 12. Discrimination of Non-Hindi Ministers and Members of Parliament
- 13. Mulayam Singh Yadav (Hindi) vs Muthuvel Karunanidhi (non-Hindi): A Showdown Over Hindi

10. K. M. Paniker's Prophetic Statement from Kerala

K. M. Panicker of was a great administrator, scholar and diplomat of his time. He hailed from the south Indian state of Kerala. In the late 1920s he was offered a senior position in the then princely state of Kashmir (This was before the British left South Asia). When asked why he took that offer, he said, "I had serious doubts whether it would be right to exchange service to the country (India) for service to the prince (king of Kashmir)... I considered various aspects of the problems and came to the conclusion. First, it was clear to me that a Travancorean (parts of Kerala was then called Travancore) like me was unlikely to attain any position of vantage in Indian affairs." How prophetic he was!

When I mention Mr. Panikar's prophetic words, some Hindi friends point to me that there are and have been many cabinet ministers and even a few Prime Ministers from non-Hindi states, even from South and East India. True, at one time there were more ministers from Tamil Nadu than any other state. These ministers are allowed to serve as ministers as long as they carryout policies set forth by Hindi politicians. Let me elaborate on it in the next section.

11. Role of Non-Hindi Ministers in Indian Government

Politicians from non-Hindi states have been appointed as ministers and even Prime Minister as long as they carry out policies set forth by Hindi politicians. Here is an example.

India's Parliamentary Committee on Official Language made 117 recommendations on the use of Hindi in 2011. President of India accepted 110 of these recommendations in 2017. Some non-Hindi politicians criticized that government is unfairly imposing Hindi (The Hindu, April 25, 2017). The relevant point here is that the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language was chaired by the Home Minister **Mr. P. Chidamparam**, who is from the non-Hindi state of Tamil Nadu. When asked about the recommendation, Chidamparam said that the recommendations were written by the drafting sub-committee chaired by Satyavrat Chaturvedi. He added that 28 of the 30 members of the committee belonged to Hindi speaking or Hindi knowing states, and the proceedings of the committee were conducted in Hindi [a language he did not know well]. He said that the chairman cannot overrule the views of the overwhelming majority. (Deccan Chronicle; April 26, 2017) This makes our point. Chairman is from a non-Hindi state but the committee is stacked with pro-Hindi members whose vote the chairman cannot overrule. The non-Hindi chairman is only a figure head.

So the number of non-Hindi ministers or number of non-Hindi officers makes no difference. Hindi hegemony will continue. Also, non-Hindi politicians have served as Finance Minister of India but economic policies that hugely favoured Hindi states (as discussed in Part IV: Section 16) continued during their tenure too.

We quote in this context the late **C. N. Annadurai** (Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu 1967-1969): "Southern India is discriminated in industrial development.... Instead of building an iron plant, the ministry of heavy industries is given to a south Indian. Is it political skill?" (C. N. Annadurai in his maiden speech at the Upper House of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) in 1962).

12. Discrimination of Non-Hindi Ministers and Members of Parliament

Non-Hindi ministers who know only their mother tongue are made ineffective unless they know Hindi or English. Parliament speaker ruled that ministers could speak only in Hindi or English in parliament.

M. K. Alagiri from Tamilnadu was appointed Chemicals and Fertilizers minister in mid-2009. He does not know Hindi and his English proficiency is limited. When he asked permission from the Speaker of Parliament, Meira Kumar, to speak in his mother tongue, she told him that ministers would be allowed to speak only in English and Hindi (Members of Parliament can speak in their mother tongue if they provide a copy of the entire speech at least 24 hours before). He suffered in silence; he sat quiet or simply did not attend parliament.

Non-Hindi members of parliament (MP) have to give one-day prior notice and text of their questions or speech if they want to speak in their mother tongue. They cannot ask secondary (or supplementary) question in their mother tongue.

Also, in parliament, Hindi speeches are simultaneously translated to English, English speeches to Hindi, and non-Hindi speeches (with one day prior notice) to English and Hindi. So non-Hindi members of parliament without sufficient knowledge of Hindi or English cannot effectively represent their voters. **This is not democracy, it is Hindi-crazy.** A more detailed discussion of Hindi hegemony in parliament may be found in Volume 7.

13. Mulayam Singh Yadav (Hindi) vs Muthuvel Karunanidhi (non-Hindi): A Showdown Over Hindi

Tussle between Mulayam Singh Yadav (Hindi state of Uttar Pradesh) and Muthuvel Karunanidhi (Non-Hindi state of Tamil Nadu) over Hindi in the Year 2000 tells us a lot about the power of Hindi politicians. Mulayam Singh Yadav had served as Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for many terms and was the President of Samajwadi Party, a popular regional party in Uttar Pradesh. Muthuvel Karunanidhi had served as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for many terms and was the President of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), a popular regional party in Tamil Nadu.

In 2000, American President Bill Clinton visited India and spoke at the Indian Parliament. As customary, Prime Minister Vajpayee was to speak after President Clinton. There was a tussle between some senior Hindi and non-Hindi politicians as to whether Vajpayee should speak in English or Hindi. Vajpayee's mother tongue is Hindi but he also knew English well. Mulayam Singh Yadav threatened to boycott the Clinton-Vajpayee speeches if the latter spoke in English. Vajpayee succumbed and spoke in Hindi.

The anti-Hindi stalwart who had been arrested and jailed many times for protesting against Hindi imposition, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Muthuvel Karunanidhi issued a statement that he was hurt by the Prime Minister's speech in Hindi in the historic event of an American President speaking before the Indian parliament (Thinathanthi-Tamil newspaper; March 23, 2000). Karunanidhi was the president of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and DMK was part of the ruling coalition government of Prime Minister Vajpayee. Why didn't Karunanidhi withdraw support for the Vajpayee government and topple it? Most likely Hindi members of parliament from other parties might have come to support Vajpayee because they do not want a government toppled for displaying Hindi supremacy before the world press that came to cover the Clinton visit. Karunanidhi could at least have asked DMK members to boycott the parliamentary session so the world press would report the opposition to Hindi supremacy within India. Karunanidhi did not.

It is always the case. In the name of party discipline or coalition etiquette or personal respect to some leader, non-Hindi politicians back down and give up after fiery oratory or

statements. This is our curse. Have you ever seen a Hindi politician oppose Hindi imposition or oppose the economic benefits Hindi states enjoy at the expense of some non-Hindi states? Never.

During the Indian Constitutional Assembly debates in the late 1940s, many non-Hindi Congress politicians spoke against making Hindi the official language of India but in the end voted for it obeying Congress party leaders. This was the curse and the beginning of Hindi supremacy in India. Had those non-Hindi politicians stood up to Congress leadership, language situation in India might have been different. What is needed now is a non-Hindi peoples' massive demonstrations against Hindi rule over India. Nothing else would save non-Hindi people's future welfare in India.

Part IV of the article is the next Chapter (Chapter 4)

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4.
Who Rules India?
Government of the Hindis, by the Hindis, for the Hindis

Part IV
NON-HINDI PEOPLES EXPLOITED UNDER THE RULE OF HINDI POLITICIANS

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This 4-parts article is included in Volume 1 also because of its relevance there.]

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OUTLINE (Part IV)

- 14. Evidence of Hindi Rule over India
- 15. Hindi Imposition
- 16. Economic Plunder of Most Non-Hindi States
- 17. Hordes of Hindi Migrants into Non-Hindi States
- 18. Final Thoughts

14. Evidence of Hindi Rule over India

Proof that it is the Hindi politicians who control the Indian Government, irrespective of which party is in power or who the Prime Minister is, is in what the Indian Government does. In a multi-national, multi-ethnic country created by erstwhile colonial rulers, whether one nationality/region controls the government or not can be verified easily. If the government consistently favours one nationality/region in economic affairs, that is proof enough that that nationality/region is controlling the government. If the language of one region is imposed on others, that is yet another evidence. If we examine the situation in India, ever since the British colonial rulers left in 1947, we see that the Hindi-speaking regions (called Hindi belt or Hindi heartland) is favoured economically by the Indian Government and Hindi language is imposed on others.

15. Hindi Imposition

Hindi imposition is well established and will not be discussed in any length here. Readers are referred to the other volumes of this series. Suffice is to say that Hindi imposition affects every non-Hindi person in India from cradle to grave. Hindi imposition gives undue advantage to Hindi peoples in admission to elite educational institutions and jobs. This affects the very future of non-Hindi peoples and gives a leg up for Hindi people.

Numerous examples of all types of Hindi imposition may be found in Volumes 4, 5 and 10.

Even in plain day-to-day living, Hindi people have more advantage than non-Hindi peoples. A Hindi person can go to any bank or railway station in India and conduct transactions in his/her mother tongue, even if the bank or railway station is a thousand miles from home. But a non-Hindi person may not be able to conduct transactions in his/her mother tongue in a bank or railway station in the same street as his/her house because there may not be an employee knowing the state language in that banks and railway stations.

Just read this news: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara wrote to Indian government Finance Minister Arun Jaitley to ask the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) to conduct examinations for banking jobs in Kannada also (now it is only Hindi and English). He also pointed out that bank challans ("deposit form"), application forms, procedural documents and ATM kiosks are available only in English and Hindi. He added that this is a "systematic discrimination". He also wanted all bank employees who do not know Kannada must gain proficiency within a set time and passing a proficiency test must be a condition for continued employment. (TheNewsMinute.com; August 15, 2018). So a Hindi person go to any bank a thousand mile from his home and do everything in Hindi but a non-Hindi person can walk 1000 feet from his home to a bank and may not be able to talk to a bank employee or fill a bank form or use a Automated Teller Machine (ATM) in his/her mother tongue. This is the display of Hindi power all over India.

A post office in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) refused to accept a registered mail addressed in Tamil because the post office employee did not know Tamil (Thinathanthi-Tamil Newspaper, June 18, 2019). It is humiliating that I cannot send a registered letter in my mother tongue in a post office located in the capital city of my state. This is the power of Hindi politicians over non-Hindi India.

Readers are referred to Volumes 4, 5 and 10 for more details and examples.

16. Economic Plunder of Most Non-Hindi States

Here are some statistics from Reference 1 (The News Minute: 14 July 2016). Percentage of tax monies received back from Indian Government by 3 southern states and 3 Hindi-belt states are listed below [these numbers are from Reference 1]. What do these numbers mean? For example, for every 100 Rupees Indian government collects in taxes from Karnataka, only 47 Rupees is given back to Karnataka in the form of financial grants, central government projects, etc. Similarly, for every 100 Rupees Indian government collects in taxes from the Hindi-belt state of Bihar, 96 Rupees is given back to it in the form of financial grants, central government projects, etc.

----- Non-Hindi Southern States -----

(The southern states of Andhra and Telangana are not included because the data is prior to the year when these two states were created.)

Karnataka ----- Rs. 47

Kerala ----- Rs. 25

Tamil Nadu ----- Rs. 40

----- Hindi-Belt States -----

Bihar ----- Rs. 96

Madhya Pradesh ----- Rs. 75

Uttar Pradesh ----- Rs. 176 (yes, it is Rs. 176)

These numbers tell the story. Non-Hindi South India is looted economically and the loot transferred to Hindi belt states. You may find more on blatant and large scale economic discrimination of non-Hindi states in Reference 1.

17. Hordes of Hindi Migrants into Non-Hindi States

A separate article is published on this topic in another volume. Here is a summary of our views.

Uncontrolled migration of hordes of migrant workers from Hindi belt region into non-Hindi states is a recent phenomenon. This is playing havoc to the economic and social fabric of non-Hindi states. State governments have no power to limit the inflow of migrants into the state. It increases unemployment among longtime state residents and also suppresses wages of local workers who are fortunate enough to have jobs. When lakhs of state youth are unemployed and willing to take any job, what is the need to bring in Hindi state migrants to take up factory, construction and hotel/restaurant service jobs. Indian constitution needs to be amended to give state governments power to limit the number of migrant workers in the state.

All jobs in state government and state government owned enterprises should be reserved for longtime state residents. At least 90% jobs in Indian government and Indian government owned businesses like banks, insurance, railway and factories should be reserved for state people. At least 90% of jobs in private businesses (factories, hotels, restaurants, shops, services) should be reserved for state people unless evidence is presented that there were no qualified local applicants.

This may require amendment of the Indian constitution but there is very little chance of such an amendment because of opposition from Hindi politicians. What can we do?

18. Final Thoughts

Something needs to be done to break the Hindi political hold over India. India should be ruled for the benefit of all the peoples of India, not primarily for the benefit and welfare of Hindi people, and any leftover for non-Hindi peoples. It is time for non-Hindi peoples

to discuss, debate and chart a plan of action to end Hindi rule over India and create a political structure that benefits all the states. It cannot be left to politicians alone. Politicians, academics, intellectuals, students, workers, farmers and every citizen should participate in this effort.

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This is the end of the fourth part of this 4-parts article.

(First Published: July 2019)

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5. India: Democracy or Hindi-crazy?

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This chapter is included in Volume 7 also because of its relevance there.]

OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. Electoral Search and Registration Web Site in Hindi and English Only
3. Indian Government Web Sites and People Participation
4. Non-Hindi Ministers Tongue-Tied
5. Non-Hindi Members of Parliament (the second class representatives of second class citizens)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The website that Indian Government set up to help voters locate polling stations, register to vote, etc. is in English and Hindi only. What about voters who do not know Hindi or English? Non-Hindi citizens cannot express their opinion and make suggestions to the government in their mother tongue on another newly created (2014) government web site but Hindi citizens can. Non-Hindi ministers cannot speak in their mother tongue in parliament but Hindi ministers can. Non-Hindi members of parliament (MPs) can speak or ask questions in mother tongue only if they ask and get permission ahead of time; also, they cannot ask follow-up questions in their mother tongue, but Hindi MPs can speak and ask questions in their mother tongue whenever they want and can also ask follow-up questions in Hindi. In short non-Hindi ministers, MPs and ordinary citizens cannot fully participate in this "democracy" unless they know one of two alien languages Hindi or English. This reduces non-Hindi peoples to second-class citizens. ["Hindi is as much alien to South Indians as English is to Indians" - Pattom Thanu Pillai (Former Chief Minister, Travancore-Cochin which evolved into Kerala State after linguistic reorganization of states in the 1950s)]

1. Introduction

India is widely touted as the largest democracy in the world. Is it truly a democracy? The devil is in the details. We will provide some details in this article.

Democracy is not just majority rule. It may be true in a homogeneous society. However, in a heterogeneous society, whether it has two layers or multiple layers of "heterogeneity", all layers of society should be able to participate in the democratic process without roadblocks and filters. We will illustrate in this article that people who do not know Hindi language are not given the same opportunities to participate in the democratic process as Hindi people.

Let me hasten to add that all adults have a vote irrespective of the language or region. But that is not enough, as discussed in the following sections. A few examples. (Those who read Indian newspapers may have seen the names Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Lok Sabha is the lower house of parliament and Rajya Sabha is the upper houses of parliament.)

2. Electoral Search and Registration Web Site in Hindi and English Only

Indian Government set up a web site to help voters www.electoralsearch.in There you can locate polling stations near your house, register to vote, etc. This site is in Hindi and English only (as of 2016). So only Hindi people can get the information and register in their mother tongue. Others have to know at least one of two alien languages, Hindi or English, if they want to get voting information or register to votes through Internet. This is outrageous in the so-called largest democracy. Another example of Indian government gone Hindi-crazy.

3. Indian Government Web Sites and People Participation

On July 26, 2014, Prime Minister Modi opened a new web site where people can make suggestions and discuss how to better govern the country (<http://mygov.nic.in/>). Mr. Modi said that the web site "would bridge gap gulf between people and government. Democracy cannot succeed without people's participation in government and this participation should not be limited only during elections". Author of this article visited the web site on July 28, 2014; the web site is in English and Hindi only. So, only people whose mother tongue is Hindi and those non-Hindi citizens who know either Hindi or English can provide suggestions and "participate in the government" (as Mr. Modi called it). So in the same way as non-Hindi ministers and members of parliament (MPs) cannot participate in the Indian parliament fully unless they know Hindi or English, ordinary non-Hindi peoples also cannot "participate in the government" through its web sites unless they know Hindi or English. This is not democracy, this is Hindi-crazy?

Technology to use all Indian languages in this government web site exists. Major private companies like Google and Facebook allow users to write in many dozens of languages. Why is Indian government restricting to just English and Hindi? It is the imperial attitude of Hindi people and politicians. **This is not democracy, this is Hindi-crazy.**

4. Non-Hindi Ministers Tongue-Tied

If you have already read about non-Hindi ministers not allowed to speak in their mother tongue, you may skip to Section 5.

4.1 The Facts

M. K. Alagiri from Tamilnadu became India's Chemicals and Fertilizers minister in mid-2009. He does not know Hindi and his English proficiency is limited.

It was reported in September 2009 that he asked the speaker of parliament Meira Kumar permission to speak in Tamil [which could be translated to English and Hindi] [The

Hindu newspaper: September 15, 2009]. The speaker delayed and delayed making a decision. Alagiri mostly stayed out of parliament during this period. Finally after ten months, in July 2010, Meira Kumar made her decision. **Alagiri's request to speak in Tamil was denied** because the Indian constitution says that ministers reply to questions in English or Hindi. She said that Alagiri could answer the primary question by reading out the reply in English and the supplementary questions could be answered by his deputy minister Srikant Jena [The Hindu newspaper: July 18, 2010]. In essence, Alagiri would play the part of a "dummy" reading a reply in English [obviously written by someone else] and secondary questions would be answered by his deputy in English or Hindi.

4.2 Commentary (The Minister Issue)

So non-Hindi peoples could not fully participate in Indian democracy. They have to elect only politicians who could speak Hindi or English. We may be losing the services of brilliant non-Hindi peoples because they could not speak Hindi or English, while any Hindi politician can become a minister knowing only his/her mother tongue Hindi. **This is discriminatory democracy.**

We would accept this practice if there is a practical reason why non-Hindi ministers could speak only in Hindi or English. There is no practical reason. Hire a full-time translator to translate each of the languages listed in the constitution to English. There are many Hindi to English and English to Hindi translators working in parliament. Why not one translator for each of the languages? (22 languages at the time this article is first published) The reason is not practicality; the reason is not money. The reason is the imperial attitude of Hindi politicians and people. **India is no longer a democracy; it has gone Hindi-crazy.**

(POST-SCRIPT: It was reported on August 8, 2014, that Minister of State for Commerce Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman was allowed to answer a Tamil question in Tamil in parliament [the Economic Times: August 8, 2014]. This is a one-time deal to assuage the mounting criticism in Tamil Nadu against some Hindi imposition actions of the new Indian government. We have seen the bait and switch tactic before. There was mounting pressure in Tamil Nadu that Tamil be allowed in Madras High Court. One judge allowed Tamil in one case. Months later when another lawyer used Tamil, another judge refused it quoting rules and regulations. What we want are laws or parliamentary rules enacted guaranteeing that ministers can speak in the mother tongue without having to get permission from anybody; all we want is the same right Hindi ministers have. We are not begging for favours, we are demanding our right.)

5. Non-Hindi Members of Parliament (the second class representatives of second class citizens)

If you have already read about non-Hindi members of parliament have limitations on speaking in their mother tongue, skip this section.

5.1 I cannot hear you!

We have discussed how non-Hindi ministers are tongue-tied in parliament. What about members of parliament?

Members of parliament can choose to hear parliamentary procedures in Hindi or English through ear phones. If someone speaks in English, the speech is translated to Hindi by human translators; if someone speaks in Hindi, it is translated to English by human translators. What if a non-Hindi member of parliament (MP) does not know Hindi or English? Too bad. He is out of touch with what is going on. Is it fair? How can such a non-Hindi MP participate in parliament?

We want simultaneous translations into all languages listed in the constitution. It is not at all difficult. This is done in the European Union parliament, with 24 languages. The technology exists. All that is needed is for the Indian government to hire full-time translators in all languages. There are several full time Hindi-English translators. Why is the government so stingy when it comes to hiring one full time translator for each language. It is not the money. It is the imperial attitude of Hindi people and politicians. This is not democracy, this is Hindi-crazy.

5.2 I Cannot speak to you!

Can non-Hindi MPs speak in their mother tongue? A non-Hindi member can speak in the mother tongue if he/she gives prior notice and gets permission at least one day ahead. With the permission in pocket, a non-Hindi member can speak or ask a question in mother tongue. Pre-prepared Hindi and English translations of the speech/question is read into the head phones (this is the procedure at the current time). The non-Hindi MP cannot ask a follow-up question in the mother tongue; may ask follow-up questions only in Hindi or English. This is unfair because follow-up questions are sometimes necessary. Also non-Hindi MPs cannot spontaneously express their views in the mother tongue on an on-going debate because prior notice must be given and permission obtained before speaking in any language other than Hindi or English. In summary, non-Hindi MPs who know neither Hindi nor English cannot fully represent their constituencies in parliament. This is unfair.

This unfair situation could be easily rectified by hiring one full time translator for each language. But only Hindi translators are available all the time in parliament and ready to translate to English. We want the same for non-Hindi languages also. We pay taxes too.

(First Published: November 2014; Updated October 2016)

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6.

Indian President Abdul Kalam bows to Hindi Chauvinists?

Thanjai Nalankilli

President of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam comes from the state of Tamil Nadu. Like most Tamils, he does not know Hindi. Though he worked for the Indian Government for many years at various positions in the area of science and technology, he never learned Hindi. Fortunately for him, at the time he entered Indian Government service decades ago, Hindi imposition on Indian Government employees was not as strict as today. Presently all new employees are required to learn Hindi or would soon be taken to task. Their promotions and salary increments could be stalled. In fact he/she may lose the job itself for failure to learn Hindi within a year [Volume: Chapter 14].

Now, coming back to President Dr. Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam, he was a brilliant manager of science and technology programs during his employment with the Indian Government. He was primarily responsible for Indian military's nuclear missile development program and did an excellent job at that. He retired after a long service. Then the presidential election came in 2002.

The two main political parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress Party, could not agree on a candidate. BJP's choice was not acceptable to Congress. Then BJP put forth Dr. Kalam's name, who by now has retired from his Indian Government job. It was a clever choice. As a non-political, non-controversial person, and as one closely associated with India's nuclear weapons program, he could not be easily rejected by Congress, and so Congress Party decided to support his candidacy. There was token opposition from a few minor political parties and they did not have the vote to defeat Dr. Kalam.

Dr. Abdul Kalam's election as President of India was all wrapped up unless, of course, a sizable section of politicians change their minds. Dr. Kalam was, naturally, elated. He started making courtesy calls to political leaders and firming up his support base. He called upon a powerful Hindi politician, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, President of Samajwadi Party on June 17, 2002. Soon after this meeting Mr. Yadav told reporters that Presidential candidate Dr. Abdul Kalam had told him that he would learn Hindi within 3 to 6 months (Thinathanthi-Tamil Newspaper, June 18, 2002). Knowing Mulayam Singh Yadav's Hindi fanaticism, a few questions need to be asked. What happened at the meeting between Dr. Kalam and Mr. Yadav? **Was Dr. Kalam pressured into studying Hindi?** We ask these questions because of Yadav's past history vis a vis Hindi.

Mulayam Singh Yadav is an outspoken Hindi chauvinist. Unlike many other Hindi politicians of his type who keep quiet in public but press for and vote for Hindi imposition at every opportunity, Yadav is vocal about his views. He wants every Indian to learn Hindi and become proficient in it. He wants all Indian Government business done in Hindi and Hindi alone. Here is an example. When the then American President Clinton visited India and addressed the Indian Parliament in 2000, some non-Hindi politicians

belonging to the ruling coalition requested that Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee reply to Clinton's address in English (a language Vajpayee knows very well, in addition to his mother tongue Hindi). Immediately Yadav announced that if the Prime Minister did not reply in Hindi, he and his party would boycott the parliament. The Prime Minister replied in Hindi. Non-Hindi politicians like Tamil Nadu's Karunanidhi, a key partner of the ruling alliance, licked their chops; they know that the Prime Minister will have to bow to Hindi politicians or may lose the job.

So, knowing Mr. Yadav's views about Hindi use and his past behavior, did Yadav tell presidential candidate Abdul Kalam that he would like to see him learn Hindi quickly? Did Yadav put subtle or not so subtle pressure on Dr. Kalam to learn Hindi? Did Yadav indicate to Kalam directly or indirectly that his party might find it difficult to support Kalam for the Presidency if he does not commit himself to learning Hindi? Did Dr. Kalam succumbed to the pressure and agreed to learn Hindi? Why else would he tell Yadav that he would learn Hindi on a priority basis (within 3 to 6 months)? What is the need for him to make such a commitment at this meeting with Yadav? He did not learn Hindi all these years and suddenly, upon his candidature for presidency, decides to learn Hindi. Did he, all of a sudden, have an urge to enjoy Hindi literature in Hindi? Did he, all of a sudden, find an urge to learn one more language, even that on a priority basis in 3 to 6 months? No, no. We don't think so. If Yadav were to announce that Dr. Kalam refused to learn Hindi and that he and his party could not support someone who would not learn Hindi, there is a good possibility that a number of Hindi politicians from other parties, including the BJP and Congress, would also withdraw support.

Does the new President (Dr. Kalam) has more important and more urgent things to do than to take a crash course in Hindi (a commitment to learn Hindi within 3 to 6 months)? What is the need for the President to learn Hindi? He knows English well and with English he could fulfill all his responsibilities as President. There is no practical reason for him to learn Hindi.

But many Hindi politicians seem to think that India is Hindia and that **anyone who does not know Hindi is not a true Indian**. So how can anyone who does not know Hindi assume the exalted position of President or Prime Minister of India? Hindi politicians form the largest linguistic group in the Indian parliament and thus control and dominate the Indian Government. They consider it an affront to Hindi pride if the President or Prime Minister does not know Hindi or do not speak in Hindi at major functions. Former Indian Prime Minister Deve Gowda succumbed to Hindi arrogance and had his aides prepare his major speeches in Hindi, then write the Hindi words in his mother tongue Kannada script (letters), and then he read out the Hindi speeches without knowing what he was really saying (Volume 12: Chapter 2 for details). **As far as I know, President Abdul Kalam made all his major speeches in English (not Hindi)**. Thank you, Mr. President, for your principled stand.

A Hindi person can become the President or Prime Minister of India without knowing a single word in any other language except his/her mother tongue Hindi. But I, a Tamil, who knows 3 languages in addition to my mother tongue cannot become the President or

Prime Minister of India unless I promise Hindi politicians that I would learn Hindi. Is this India or Hindia?

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7.

Andhra Pradesh's Chandrababu Naidu Learns Hindi!

Thanjai Nalankilli

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. N. Chandrababu Naidu is learning Hindi. Why this new found love for Hindi at his age? No, this is no love story. Just political necessity.

"India eNews" web site reported on April 4, 2008, "Now that N. Chandrababu Naidu is looking for a larger role in national politics, the former Andhra Pradesh chief minister is dead serious about learning Hindi."

Chandrababu Naidu is the convener of United National Progressive Alliance (UNPA) comprising of six political parties. He is working towards a parliamentary election victory for the alliance and he becoming the Prime Minister of India. He knows the power of Hindi belt in Indian parliament. He knows that he needs to learn Hindi in order to get the support of Hindi politicians, even in his own alliance, for his prime ministerial bid. It is this political ambition that pushed the 58 year old Naidu to learn Hindi. See Volume 12: Chapter 2 as to why prime minister candidates rush to learn Hindi or at least pretend to know Hindi.

Although Hindi is a compulsory subject in Andhra schools and he had passed high school Hindi examinations, he knows that it is not enough to appease Hindi politicians. In recent years he had made a few speeches in Hindi. Whether he actually knew what he was saying or pretended to know Hindi by reading or memorizing speeches written in Hindi for him is not known. (Former Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, from Karnataka State, fooled at least some people by reading Hindi speeches written in his native Kannada script.)

Whenever Hindi politicians come to Tamil Nadu to speak at election rallies they say in Tamil "vankakkam" (greetings) and then move on to speak in English that would be translated to Tamil. But it is not enough for the master ruling race of Hindis. Anyone who wants to make an impression on Hindi politicians and populace needs to make the entire speech in Hindi (or at least pretend so by reading out a Hindi speech written by others).

We already mentioned what Deve Gowda did. Some years ago when Congress Party president Ms. Sonia Gandhi attempted to speak in English she was booed [Volume 12: Chapter 2]. A senior Hindi politician, Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, asked presidential candidate Dr. Abdul Kalam of Tamilnadu, to learn Hindi [Volume 12: Chapter 5]. Back in the 1960, when asked if he was interested in the prime minister post, the most popular and powerful politician of Tamil Nadu at that time, Mr. Kamaraj said, "I do not know English or Hindi. I could not become the prime minister." Kamaraj could as well have said, "I do not know Hindi. I could not become the prime minister" as evidenced by events listed above.

Should an aspirant for the high post of Prime Minister of India spend the time learning Indian economy, foreign affairs, military matters, etc. or spend the time learning Hindi which has no use except for appeasing Hindi politicians and populace?

Similarly non-Hindi employees at all levels are required to study Hindi and pass examinations. Should an accountant working in a non-Hindi state spend time learning new accounting software and principles or learn Hindi? Should an engineer spend time updating or upgrading his technical skills or learn Hindi? Because of the political clout of Hindi politicians, millions of hours of employee time are wasted in learning Hindi which serves no purpose other than establishing and demonstrating Hindi hegemony over non-Hindi peoples.

"If Hindi were to become the official language of India, Hindi-speaking people will govern us. We will be treated like third rate citizens". - Former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. N. Annadurai (April 29, 1963)

(First Published: Month 2008)

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8. Indian People Means Just Hindi People to the Government and President of India!

Thanjai Nalankilli

"Indian people" means just "Hindi people" to the Indian government. Six examples. This has far reaching negative consequences to non-Hindi citizens.

OUTLINE

1. Introduction
2. The Problem and the Solution
3. Drug Labels in Hindi
4. Defense Service Examinations in Hindi
5. According to the Finance Minister
6. According to the Prime Minister
7. National Identity is Hindi?
8. Prophetic Words of C. N. Annadurai

1. Introduction

Indian President Ram Nath Kovind suggested to doctors that they prescribe the names of medicines in Hindi as it would result in greater interaction between doctors and patients (theindianawaaz.com; September 14, 2017). How would doctors writing prescriptions in Hindi create better interaction between doctor and patients in non-Hindi states? Yet the head of the government—the President of India is making such a ludicrous suggestion to doctors.

It would make sense if the president said that doctors should write prescriptions in the state language or mother tongue. Suggesting doctors to write medicine names in Hindi is just arrogant, callous, insensitive and Hindi-centric. The President of India should realize that India is populated by people of many languages, not just Hindi people. It seems “patients” means “Hindi patients” to the president of India. Others do not count.

Not only the president but ministers and senior officers of the Indian government also utter statements as if India is populated by Hindi people only and everything that the Indian government does should be for the benefit of Hindi people. Non-Hindi peoples have become invisible to their eyes, except when it comes time to collect taxes.

2. The Problem and the Solution

This attitude of “Indian people” means “Hindi people” is pervasive in the minds of senior officers and ministers also (see Sections 3 to 6). This has far reaching negative consequences to non-Hindi peoples of India. Rules, regulations and orders from the

Indian government ignore non-Hindi languages and peoples and are structured to benefit just Hindi people.

This should change. Rules, regulations and orders should benefit all the peoples of India. Only way to assure equal treatment of non-Hindi peoples is to amend the Indian constitution. If Hindi Members of Parliament block such an amendment, then sooner or later non-Hindi peoples may seek a solution out of the Indian constitution resulting in the break up of Indian Union into Hindi India and non-Hindi India or multiple countries. Responsibility would lie squarely on the selfish, arrogant Hindi politicians who want to reformat the multi-cultural, multi-language India into a Hindi-fyed India.

3. Pharmaceutical Labeling in Hindi (Drug Labels in Hindi)

Indian government issued an order to the pharmaceutical industry (drug industry) that all pharmaceutical labeling should be in English and Hindi from April 1, 2006. Secretary of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals said that it was one of the “customer-friendly measures” taken by the department. (The Hindu: March 16, 2006).

May I know how this introduction of Hindi is "friendly" to people in Kerala or Andhra or West Bengal or other states outside of the Hindi belt? It does not in anyway help them. Only people of the Hindi states benefit from it.

So, to the Indian government, "pharmacy customers" mean "pharmacy customers from Hindi states". Other sick people do not count.

4. Defense Service Examinations in Hindi

In 2013, Indian government announced that Combined Defense Service entrance examinations that were until then held in English only would henceforth be held in Hindi also. India's Defense Minister told parliament that Hindi was added in order to attract talented youth from rural areas to enter Defense Service (The Hindu: December 18, 2003). Read the reason for making Hindi as an examination language again: "in order to attract talented youth from rural areas".

The only talented rural youth who would benefit from this decision are those from Hindi speaking states and possibly those states closer to them where Hindi is widely known. Rural youth from the south or northeast or other non-Hindi regions would in no way benefit from the new Indian Government policy.

The only talented rural youth who would benefit are those from Hindi speaking states and possibly those states closer to them where Hindi is widely known. Rural youth from the south or northeast or other non-Hindi regions would in no way benefit from the new Indian Government policy. To the Indian government, “youth from rural areas” means “youth from rural Hindi areas”. Non-Hindi youth do not count.

5. According to the Finance Minister

Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented the budget in parliament in English mixed with Hindi. According to Deccan Herald, "Sources in the know said that the reason for presenting in Hindi was to establish a direct connect with the rural populace". (Deccan Herald; February 1, 2018; Times of India; February 1, 2018)

If "Indian rural populace means Hindi rural populace" to the Indian Finance Minister, Indian government should collect taxes from Hindi people only.

6. According to the Prime Minister

On July 26, 2014, Prime Minister Modi opened a new web site where people can make suggestions and discuss how to better govern the country (<http://mygov.nic.in/>). Mr. Modi said that the web site "would bridge gap gulf between people and government. Democracy cannot succeed without people's participation in government and this participation should not be limited only during elections" (News18.com, IBNLive.in.com; July 26, 2014).

Author of this article visited the web site on July 28, 2014; the web site is in English and Hindi only. So, only people whose mother tongue is Hindi and those non-Hindi citizens who know either Hindi or English can participate in this web site. Prime Minister Modi said that the web site "would bridge gap gulf between people and government". Since only Hindi people can make suggestions there in their mother tongue, obviously "people" means "Hindi people" to the Prime Minister of India.

7. National Identity is Hindi?

In 2014, the newly elected Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi, started speaking with foreign leaders in Hindi although he is reasonably proficient in English, and in fact, talks to his Tamil Nadu allies Vaiko and Ramadoss in English. We don't care if this prime minister, whose mother tongue is Gujarati, feels comfortable speaking in Hindi but the reasons behind his action is disturbing and "degrading" to non-Hindi peoples of India.

Professor Purushottam Agarwal, visiting professor at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, said that Modi's use of Hindi is a sign of "rootedness" of the Modi government (Hindustan Times: June 8, 2014). This arrogant attitude of some Hindi politicians and elite that India is rooted in Hindi lands alienates non-Hindi regions.

DNA News (June 4, 2014) reported diplomats saying, "Modi has tried to assert India's national identity". If Hindi is India's national identity, what about the non-Hindi peoples of India? Are they Indian nationals?

8. Prophetic Words of C. N. Annadurai

"We will go to every part of Tamil Nadu and tell the people that Hindi is coming and that it is like a thunder strike on the heads of Tamil and Dravidian people.... If Hindi were to

become the official language of India, Hindi-speaking people will govern us. We will be treated like third rate citizens".- Former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. N. Annadurai, Public Meeting at Chennai Marina (Madras Marina), April 29, 1963.

Those prophetic words are true not only for Tamil people but also for all non-Hindi peoples of India.

(First Published: October 2018)

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9. Get Out of India if You Do Not Know Hindi (1946 to 2019)

Thanjai Nalankilli

OUTLINE

1. Back in 1946
2. Now in 2019
3. The Incident at a Bank in Karnataka (2018)
4. The Incident at a Mumbai High Rise Building (2019)
5. Concluding Remarks

1. Back in 1946

Raghunath Vinayak Dhulekar (R.V. Dhulekar) was a member of the Constitution Assembly of India from the Hindi state of Uttar Pradesh. He made the following statement at the Constitutional assembly on December 10, 1946) [Constitution Assembly Debates-Official Report, Volume 1 (p 26-27), Lok Sabha Secretariat, 1988]

"People who do not know Hindustani have no right to stay in India. People who are present in this House to fashion a Constitution for India and do not know Hindustani are not worthy to be members of this Assembly. They had better leave."

2. Now in 2019

A young man from Tamil Nadu (India) was going to America for higher studies. He was to board a flight from Mumbai International Airport (India). He went to an Indian Immigration Counter to get exit papers to board the flight. The young man spoke to the immigration officer in English. The office refused to process his exit papers because this Tamil man did not speak in Hindi. When the young man told the officer that he does not know Hindi, the officer told him to go to Tamil Nadu. This officer knew English because he was talking to the previous customer, a foreign lady, in English. (Mumbai Mirror; January 10, 2019)

The Tamil man complained to the supervisor. The Hindi zealot immigration officer said even in front of the supervisor that this young man should know Hindi being in India or go to Tamil Nadu. The young man had his papers processed by another immigration officer and was able to fly out to America. (Mumbai Mirror; January 10, 2019)

It seems what this Hindi zealot officer did was unlawful. India has a two-language policy. One can communicate with any Indian government officer in Hindi or English anywhere in India. What was the punishment for this officer? A senior officer said that if the immigration officer is found guilty, he will be sent for re-skilling, retraining and re-sensitisation (Mumbai Mirror; January 10, 2019). That is all.

Compare that to recommended punishment for non-Hindi employees not studying or working in Hindi. Department of Official Language sent a report, "Annual Programme for Transacting the Official Work of the Union in Hindi 2017-18", to managers at all offices of the Indian government and its undertakings. It says, "compliance of the instructions relating to official language should be ensured strictly. Ministries/Departments/Offices may consider initiating disciplinary proceedings in case of willful non-compliance of the orders relating to official language." [The report is referring to Hindi when it says official language, as the title of report clearly shows.] Indian Railways was more direct and more blunt. Their website (as seen on October 5, 2015) says, **"Failure to pass the examination in Hindi of an approved standard within the period of probation shall involve liability to termination of services."**

3. The Incident at a Bank in Karnataka (2018)

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister G Parameshwara said in 2018 that a man was attacked by a bank staff in Kolar (Karnataka) for asking to carry out a transaction in Kannada (TheNewsMinute.com; August 15, 2018). So, this bank staff seems to think that non-Hindi Indians should not transact business in their mother tongue in their own state. **A sad state for non-Hindi peoples of India.**

4. The Incident at a Mumbai High Rise Building (2019)

A 28-year-old courier went to deliver a package to a woman living in a high-rise building in Mumbai, Maharashtra State. He talked to her and her sister in Hindi and they asked him to speak in Marathi, the state language of Maharashtra. He argued with them that they should talk in Hindi, and the argument ended with the courier attacking one of the sisters with the pen in his hand. The assault left the woman with a deep gash. Local police registered a case against him and the courier company fired him from the job. (Hindustan Times; February 23, 2019)

Where do Hindi migrants into non-Hindi states get the audacity and sense of entitlement that everyone in India should talk to them in Hindi. They see Hindi in railway stations, railway compartments, banks and post offices in non-Hindi states; they have plenty of Hindi programmes on television and radio in non-Hindi states. All of these provided by Indian government. So they are annoyed and angered when people want to talk to them in their mother tongue in their own states. I say, "Make knowledge of state language a requirement for all government and private jobs; this should be a precondition for employment. All children residing in the state must learn the state language". Amend the Indian constitution, if necessary.

5. Concluding remarks

We do know that it is not the view of all Hindi politicians, then or now, that those who do not know Hindi should get out of India. Yet, even today some senior leaders of the Indian Government have expressed the view that "Indian people" means "Hindi people" only,

and that Indian government is for the benefit of Hindi speakers only [Volume 12: Chapter 8]. When senior government officials express such views directly or indirectly, people like the Hindi zealot immigration officer would refuse to process immigration papers for Indians who do not know Hindi.

(First Published: March 2019; Updated: April 2019)

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10.

India: South is South and North is North

Lalitha Krishnan Nair

I used to live in America. I usually watch the television show "Martha Stewart Living". It deals with cooking, household works, decorations, etc. One of the shows in late 2000 was about Indian dresses and Indian cooking. An Indian woman was the guest and guide. Whenever she talked of North Indian food, she almost always referred it as Indian food but whenever she talked of South Indian food, she almost always made it a point to refer it as South Indian food.

Also, if you go to any major city in America, you will find many "Indian Restaurants", most of them serving North Indian cuisine and a few restaurants serving South India cuisine. The former is seldom advertised as serving North Indian dishes but simply as serving Indian dishes while the latter invariably advertise as serving South Indian dishes.

The point I am making is that "India" has become synonymous with "North India" and South India is considered **an appendage to the "real India"** (that is North India or, more specifically, North-Central India). I am not blaming anyone for it because it is the history, it is the reality. Much of South India has never been part of any of the North Indian empires of the Guptas or Moghuls or other northern dynasties (north-central dynasties); Except for eight years under the Delhi Sultanate of Mohammad-bin-Tughlug and couple of years under the Moghul Empire of Aurangzeb, southern most state of Tamil Nadu was never part of any type of Indian Empire. Only during the British rule, north and south were brought together for any amount of time into a single political entity.

There is not much in common with north and south. South India is not a homogeneous region either. There are four different cultures, languages and heritages; essentially four countries. But **South Indians are brothers and sisters**. North Indians are not even cousins. Here is a telling example.

There was a war in Sri Lanka between Sinhala controlled Sri Lankan government/military and the Tamil minority. War was nearing the end in 2009, ending in May with Sinhala victory. Large numbers of Tamil homes have been destroyed and Tamil civilians were starving and without proper shelter. Sri Lankan Tamils are ethnically same as Tamils of Tamil Nadu (South India). People of Tamil Nadu were angry at Indian government and the ruling Congress Party for India's support to Sinhala Sri Lankan government and military during the war. To counter the feelings against Congress Party in Tamil Nadu, Congress Party president asked party units in South Indian States to collect relief material for Sri Lankan Tamil civilians (The Hindu; February 24, 2009). Congress President asked for help to Tamil Sri Lankans only in South India because she knew of the brotherly-sisterly feelings and empathy among South Indians. She also knew that there will not be much empathy to Tamils in North India. This again shows the North-South divide in India.

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11.

"Indian Rural Youth" means "Hindi Rural Youth" to Indian Defense Ministry

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This chapter is included in Volume 5 also (under the title "Defense Service Entrance Examination in English and Hindi Only") because of its relevance there.]

On December 17, 2003, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) Member of Parliament Mr. P.G. Narayanan raised the issue of continued Hindi imposition by the Indian Government. He said that until then the Combined Defense Service entrance examination was held in English only and a recent government order now allows candidates to write the examination in either English or Hindi. He pointed out that this is discriminatory to non-Hindi candidates because both English and Hindi are alien to them while Hindi is the mother tongue of Hindi speakers. He said that this gives an unfair advantage to Hindi speakers. He urged the Indian Government to hold the examination in all Indian languages so that all candidates can choose to write the examination in their own mother tongue.

Defense Minister Mr. George Fernandes replied that Hindi was added in addition to English on the recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defense in order to attract talented youth from rural areas to enter Defense Service. Read the reason for making Hindi as an examination language again: "in order to attract talented youth from rural areas to enter Defense Service" [The Hindu; December 18, 2003].

I am at a total loss to understand how making Hindi an examination language would attract "talented rural youth from Tamilnadu or Andhra Pradesh or West Bengal or Nagaland to Defense Service. The only talented rural youth who would benefit are those from Hindi speaking states and possibly those states closer to them where Hindi is widely known. Rural youth from the south or northeast or other non-Hindi regions would in no way benefit from the new Indian Government policy to attract talented rural youth to Defense Service. On the contrary the new policy hurts their chances of employment with the Defense Department.

To the Hindi belt politicians who set India's language policies, **Indian rural youth means Hindi rural youth. The non-Hindi rural youth do not matter to them;** they do not care if talented rural youth from non-Hindi states lose out in the competition for jobs in the defense department. Only the Hindi people count; others are second-class citizens. Laws are passed, decisions are made and orders are issued to benefit the Hindi people, be it in financial grants, jobs, education or television programmes. In every one of these spheres the Indian Government decisions, laws and orders give Hindi people a decided advantage. This is the fact of life in India.

"We will go to every part of Tamil Nadu and tell the people that Hindi is coming and that it is like a thunder strike on the heads of Tamil and Dravidian people.... If Hindi were to

become the official language of India, Hindi-speaking people will govern us. We will be treated like third rate citizens".- Former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. N. Annadurai, Public Meeting at Chennai Marina (Madras Marina), April 29, 1963.

(First Published: August 2005)

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12.

Pharmaceutical Labels (Drug Labels) in Hindi and English What about the Health and Safety of Non-Hindi Peoples?

Thanjai Nalankilli

[This chapter is included in Volume 10 also (under the title "Pharmaceutical Labels (Drug Labels) in Hindi: What about the Health and Safety of Non-Hindi Peoples?") because of its relevance there.]

1. Indian Government Action

Indian government issued an order to the pharmaceutical industry (drug industry) that all pharmaceutical labeling should be in English and Hindi from April 1, 2006 [The Hindu newspaper: March 16, 2006].

2. What About the Safety, Health and Welfare of Non-Hindi Patients?

Until now pharmacy labels are usually in English only. Although doctors and nurses tell patients about dosage, expiration dates and side effects, if the patient forgets it, they need to know English or get help from someone who knows English to read the label. This puts patients who do not know English at a disadvantage.

So it is a good idea to include mother tongue or state language in drug labels. That is not the new Indian government directive. Indian government requires that Hindi be added to the labels. It sure helps Hindi people. What about non-Hindi patients? Does Indian government care about non-Hindi people's health, safety and welfare?

If the Indian government truly wants to help sick people buying drugs to understand the manufacturing and expiry dates, side effects, and other basic information better, it would have ordered that all labels be in English and the state language. Then sick people in Tamil Nadu can read and understand the labels in Tamil, people in Andhra Pradesh in Telugu, people in Assam in Assamese, etc. That would be fair. But as far as the Hindi politicians who dominate the Indian parliament and thus effectively control the Indian government are concerned, only Hindi people matter.

It is not at all difficult to print pharmaceutical labels in the state language. Each state has a population more than that of many countries. For example, Tamil Nadu has a population of about 70 million. Such a large population can support drug labeling in Tamil. This is true for all states. As far as the Indian government is concerned it is yet another way to inject Hindi into non-Hindi lands. They are willing to sacrifice the health and welfare of non-Hindi peoples in order to promote and push Hindi into the throats of non-Hindi peoples.

We include English in the labeling for the benefit of people temporarily living out of state or traveling through another state. English is the de facto international language and

is useful whether you travel inside or outside India; also advanced knowledge in science and technology is available in English. We do not see a need for Hindi labels outside of Hindi states. What we need is equality of Indian languages.

3. Indian Customers mean Hindi Customers

Another thing that infuriates us is the reason given for the order to put English-Hindi labels. Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals called this a "customer-friendly measure" [The Hindu newspaper: March 16, 2006]. How is adding Hindi to the label (in addition to the existing English) customer-friendly to a non-Hindi customer? Only ones benefiting from this order are Hindi-speaking Indians. It seems "Indian customers" means "Hindi customers" in the eyes of the Hindi-centric Indian government.

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